



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

GREG COX
First District

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Second District

KRISTIN GASPAR
Third District

RON ROBERTS
Fourth District

BILL HORN
Fifth District

DATE: June 20, 2017

DRAFT

XX

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT:

COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT OF CHILD AND FAMILY TEAM MEETING FACILITATORS FOR CHILD WELFARE SERVICES, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES, AND PROBATION (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

Child Welfare Services (CWS), Behavioral Health Services (BHS), and Juvenile Probation have worked together to meet the mental health and well-being needs of all system involved youth by screening youth for mental and behavioral health concerns at the time of entry into the child welfare system, providing assessments and mental health services as needed, as well as bringing together the agencies, the youth, the family, and important people in the youth's life – collectively known as the Child and Family Team – to make informed decisions about how to help the youth and family meet their behavioral health and well-being goals.

Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) is a continuation of California's ongoing system efforts to improve outcomes for children in foster care. CCR is mandated through AB403 (2015) and AB1997 (2016) and will have ongoing legislation over coming years to support the effort. CCR integrates the positive practices identified through the implementation of Pathways to Well-Being and has made sweeping changes to all facets of the foster care system. Pathways to Well-Being seeks to positively impact all CWS children/youth by providing mental health screening, mental health assessment as warranted, and thoughtful and timely linkage to mental health and supportive services for the County's most impacted children and youth.

Youth with the highest mental health needs, who qualify for Enhanced Services including Intensive Care Coordination and Intensive Home Based Services through the Pathways to Well-Being program, have Child and Family Teams who meet every 90 days to discuss the youth's progress, needs, and make ongoing treatment decisions. In 2016, these services were expanded to all youth who meet the criteria, even if they are not part of the child welfare system.

One of the CCR mandates includes the formation of Child and Family Teams to collaborate and make informed decisions at integral decision-making points in each case for all CWS and Probation youth who are removed from their homes.

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Due to the CCR mandates for Child and Family Team meetings for all out of home youth along specified timelines, the number of facilitated meetings is expected to increase by 800%. To accommodate this growth, CWS is requesting authorization to issue a competitive procurement for Child and Family Team Meeting Facilitators to integrate the efforts of CWS, Behavioral Health Services and Juvenile Probation. Today's action supports the countywide *Live Well San Diego* vision by providing quality care and supportive services for at-risk children and youth in the dependency and delinquency system, which promotes a healthy, safe, and thriving region.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. In accordance with Section 401, Article XXIII of the County Administrative Code, authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to issue a competitive solicitation for Child and Family Team Meeting Facilitators, and upon successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award contracts for a term of one year, with four option years and up to an additional six months options if needed, and to amend the contract as needed to reflect changes to services and funding, subject to approval of the Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2017-19 CAO Recommended Operational Plan in the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in costs and revenue of \$3,780,000 in Fiscal Year 2017-18 and costs and revenue of \$3,780,000 in Fiscal Year 2018-19. The funding sources are California Department of Social Services Child Family Team Allocation and Title IV-E funding, Social Services Realignment, and Behavioral Health Realignment. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

At the regularly scheduled meeting on June 1, 2017, the Behavioral Health Advisory Board voted to _____.

BACKGROUND

In 2002, the Katie A. v. Bonta class action lawsuit, alleging violations of multiple federal laws, was filed against Los Angeles County and the State of California. The suit sought to improve the provision of mental health and supportive services for children and youth in, or at imminent risk of placement in, foster care in California. The State of California settled its portion of lawsuit in 2012 and published the Core Practice Model (CPM) Guide. The CPM Guide describes how county child welfare staff, behavioral health staff and service providers can work together to address the mental health needs of children/youth and families in the child welfare system.

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The CPM Guide identifies specific required components that support the standards and expectations of practice by child welfare and behavioral health staff. The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency's divisions of Child Welfare Services (CWS) and Behavioral Health Services (BHS) operationalized the CPM Guide with the implementation of Pathways to Well-Being.

The guiding principle of CCR, as mandated by legislation codified in 2015 and 2016, is that all children deserve to live with a committed, nurturing and permanent family, who will prepare the youth for a successful transition into adulthood. The main goals of CCR are to:

- increase home-based placements
- increase effective services and supports for youth that are individualized, coordinated across systems, and follow the youth regardless of placement type
- increase supports for youth, families, and caregivers.

A fundamental principle of CCR is that the youth and family's experience and voice are important in assessment, placement and service planning. All CWS and Probation youth placed in out-of-home care will have a Child and Family Team (CFT) that includes the youth, family, and their formal and informal support network invested in the youth and family's success. The CFT will provide input for assessment, placement, case planning, and the youth's mental health and well-being at critical decision points in the case. Every youth in out-of-home care will be required to have CFT meetings when they are removed from the care of their parents and the team will meet approximately every six months thereafter until the family has met their goals and/or the youth has achieved permanency. Youth who qualify for Enhanced Services under Pathways to Well-Being will continue to have Child and Family Team meetings a minimum of every 90 days.

The amount of the contract is expected to be approximately \$3,780,000 each year. It is estimated, based on both new CCR mandates and previous Katie A mandates, that over 8,000 facilitated meetings will be needed per year. These meetings are integral to the decisions and plans made for youth and families to be successful in meeting their mental health, child welfare, and probation goals. Having contracted facilitators will allow social workers, probation officers, and clinicians to be focused, contributing team members during meetings without having competing roles of working with the youth and families and facilitating at the same time. Facilitators need to be skilled in objective, family-centered facilitation to work with multiple departments, agencies, stakeholders, and family members, ensuring that family voice, choice, and engagement are at the center of meetings and plans created.

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The Board of Supervisors has demonstrated a long standing commitment to enhancing programs for children at risk of abuse and neglect, as well as for families in the foster care system. Approval of today's recommended actions will continue this commitment.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

Today's proposed recommendation supports the Healthy Families and Safe Communities initiatives in the County of San Diego's 2017-2022 Strategic Plan, as well as the County's Live Well San Diego vision, by providing quality care and supportive services for at-risk children and youth in the dependency and delinquency system.

Respectfully submitted,

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SIGNATURE

HELEN N. ROBBINS-MEYER
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: ☐ Yes ☒ No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED

☐ Yes ☒ No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

A-87 COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:

CCR is the law that mandates CFTs -AB403 and AB1997.
Mental health CFTS are a mandate from the Katie A lawsuit.

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):

N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Health and Human Services Agency

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): Department of Probation

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